

House Study Bill 702

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ARNOLD)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the operation of electric scooters on highways
2 and making a penalty applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 6583HC 80
5 dea/sh/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 321.1, Code Supplement 2003, is amended
1 2 by adding the following new subsection:
1 3 NEW SUBSECTION. 20C. "Electric scooter" means a two=
1 4 wheeled device that has handlebars, is designed to be stood
1 5 upon or sat upon by the operator, and is powered by an
1 6 electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with
1 7 or without human propulsion. "Electric scooter" does not
1 8 include an electric personal assistive mobility device or a
1 9 motorcycle, motorized bicycle, or motor scooter. An electric
1 10 scooter is not a motor vehicle for purposes of this chapter.

1 11 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 321.234B ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

1 12 1. An electric scooter may be operated on a highway by a
1 13 person at least sixteen years of age in accordance with this
1 14 section.

1 15 2. A person operating an electric scooter on the highway
1 16 is subject to the provisions of this chapter and has all the
1 17 rights and duties under this chapter applicable to the driver
1 18 of a vehicle, except those provisions of this chapter which by
1 19 their nature can have no application.

1 20 3. An electric scooter shall not be operated on a highway
1 21 with any person on the vehicle other than the operator.

1 22 Sec. 3. Section 321.236, Code Supplement 2003, is amended
1 23 by adding the following new subsection:

1 24 NEW SUBSECTION. 15. Regulating the operation of electric
1 25 scooters. However, the regulations shall not conflict with
1 26 the provisions of section 321.234B.

1 27 Sec. 4. Section 321.397, Code 2003, is amended to read as
1 28 follows:

1 29 321.397 LAMPS ON BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

1 30 Every bicycle and electric scooter shall be equipped with a
1 31 lamp on the front exhibiting a white light, at the times
1 32 specified in section 321.384, visible from a distance of at
1 33 least three hundred feet to the front and with a lamp on the
1 34 rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of three
1 35 hundred feet to the rear; except that a red reflector may be
2 1 used in lieu of a rear light. A peace officer riding a police
2 2 bicycle is not required to use either front or rear lamps if
2 3 duty so requires.

2 4 Sec. 5. Section 805.8A, subsection 9, Code Supplement
2 5 2003, is amended to read as follows:

2 6 9. Bicycle, electric scooter, or pedestrian violations.

2 7 For violations by a pedestrian, an electric scooter operator,
2 8 or a bicyclist under section 321.234, subsections 3 and 4,
2 9 section 321.234B, section 321.236, subsection 10, section
2 10 321.257, subsection 2, section 321.275, subsection 8, section
2 11 321.325, 321.326, 321.328, 321.331, 321.332, 321.397, or
2 12 321.434, the scheduled fine is fifteen dollars.

2 13 EXPLANATION

2 14 This bill provides for the operation of electric scooters
2 15 on highways. The bill defines "electric scooter" as a two=
2 16 wheeled device that has handlebars, is designed to be stood
2 17 upon or sat upon by the operator, and is powered by an
2 18 electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with
2 19 or without human propulsion. A person operating an electric
2 20 scooter on a highway must be at least 16 years of age and may
2 21 not be accompanied on the vehicle by another person. The
2 22 operator is subject to all laws applicable to motor vehicles

2 23 on highways except those laws which by their nature cannot be
2 24 applied to electric scooters. The bill specifies that an
2 25 electric scooter operated during the times when motor vehicle
2 26 headlights are required shall be equipped with a front lamp
2 27 with a white light visible from at least 300 feet to the front
2 28 and a rear lamp with a red light visible from at least 300
2 29 feet to the rear or a rear reflector.
2 30 A violation of the provisions in the bill is punishable as
2 31 a scheduled violation subject to a fine of \$15.
2 32 LSB 6583HC 80
2 33 dea/sh/8